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Viewing cable 09QUITO176, GOE PEACE OVERTURES, THEN ANTI-U.S. JABS

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09QUITO176**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09QUITO176	2009-03-10 22:56	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/07/1/1355/cable-196191.html>

VZCZCXYZ0002
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQ #0176/01 0692256
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 102256Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0161
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 8030
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4101
RUEHC/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3449
RUEHP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 3095
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4185
RHEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHMFIISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RHMFIISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 2274
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

S E C R E T QUITO 000176

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: TWENTY YEARS
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [KCRM](#) [PTER](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: GOE PEACE OVERTURES, THEN ANTI-U.S. JABS

REF: A. QUITO 160
B. QUITO 153
C. QUITO 145

Classified By: Ambassador...

id: 196191
date: 3/10/2009 22:56
refid: 09QUITO176
origin: Embassy Quito
classification: SECRET//NOFORN
destination: 09QUITO145|09QUITO153|09QUITO160
header:
VZCZCXYZ0002
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQQT #0176/01 0692256
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 102256Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0161
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 8030
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4101
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3449
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 3095
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4185
RHEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHMFIISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RHMFIISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 2274
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

----- header ends -----

S E C R E T QUITO 000176

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: TWENTY YEARS
TAGS: PREL SNAR KCRM PTER EC
SUBJECT: GOE PEACE OVERTURES, THEN ANTI-U.S. JABS

REF: A. QUITO 160
B. QUITO 153
C. QUITO 145

Classified By: Ambassador Heather Hodges for reason 1.4 (D)

11. (C) SUMMARY: The past week has seen President Correa veer from an awkward attempt to propose a new relationship with the U.S. to outbursts against the use of polygraphs and insinuations that the U.S. Embassy activities did not square with the Obama administration's policy. He also reiterated that one of the expelled U.S. Embassy officers was the CIA station chief. The anti-polygraph remarks may be a roadblock to future bilateral counternarcotics cooperation, while the GOE rhetoric overall is harmful to Ecuadorian public perceptions of the U.S. global role. End Summary.

A CHARM OFFENSIVE OF A SORT

12. (C) In line with the MFA meetings with the Ambassador (Refs A and C), President Correa appeared to be trying to send a positive message on March 5 about his interest in a constructive relationship with the Obama Administration. Speaking at the inauguration of the Prosecutor General's "justice house" facility, located in the former U.S. Embassy building, he first quoted Abraham Lincoln on having confidence in the justice of the people. Correa said that no one in his right mind would underestimate the value of

brotherly relations with an admirable and generous people like those of the U.S. Noting that many Ecuadorians have studied in U.S. universities, he recognized the creativity and contributions of Whitman, Faulkner, Edison, Martin Luther King, Angela Davis, Lincoln, and so many other Americans that had contributed to the progress of humanity.

¶ 13. (SBU) Correa said such Americans were very different from those that had caused conflicts, such as what recently happened with U.S. officials. He insisted that the U.S. Embassy officials offended Ecuador with "foul practices of agencies and departments that contradicted the policy stated by Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton." He described Obama/Clinton policy as one of "peace, reconciliation, consensus, and respect for the self-determination and especially sovereignty of the peoples of the world."

¶ 14. (SBU) Correa then quoted from the response POTUS sent to Correa's letter of congratulations: "I am confident that we can work together in a spirit of peace and friendship to build a more secure world." He said the GOE desires a brotherly relationship while, at the same time, reaffirming its determination never to permit violation of its sovereignty, demands for information, foreign military bases, or false protectorates. Correa called for a "relationship of respect between our peoples," separately from the power they enjoyed. He appeared to be reading from a prepared text, which was unusual for him.

¶ 15. (SBU) In a similar vein, Foreign Minister Fander Falconi highlighted the GOE's interest in a solid and stable relationship with the U.S. and briefly referred to inappropriate U.S. interference during a March 4 television interview. He called for a positive agenda with the U.S. focused on migration, poverty, inequality, and human rights. Falconi emphasized, "We want relations with the U.S. that are not only based on issues of security and counternarcotics, which is very important, but it is not the only issue." While acknowledging that GOE actions were tough, he said the Correa government did not want to generate a climate of belligerency with the U.S. Falconi stressed the GOE's desire to build a relationship with the U.S. based on mutual respect and transparency in all international agreements.

WEEKEND REMARKS COMPLICATE COUNTERNARCOTICS COOPERATION

¶ 16. (C) The GOE "charm offensive" did not last through the weekend. First President Correa, recounting his appearance at the inauguration of the Prosecutor General's new facility during his March 7 radio/TV address, claimed he saw the polygraphs which the U.S. Embassy used to test Ecuadorian policemen in armored areas of the building. He made clear he would not tolerate the use of polygraphs, saying, "What shame! Never again!" (Note: Obviously no polygraph equipment was left at the former U.S. Embassy building. USG officials who visited Ecuador to do polygraphs used other locations and carried their equipment with them. End Note.)

¶ 17. (S/NF) In a radio interview on March 8, Correa sounded even more stridently anti-American. Again calling expelled U.S. Embassy official Mark Sullivan the CIA head, he claimed Sullivan had met with him after arrival, very polite and friendly, to discuss cooperation with police and military units. Correa said he was willing at that time to continue cooperation, although the principal beneficiary would be the U.S. He alleged that he told Sullivan that the GOE would not allow use of polygraphs. Correa also reiterated during the interview allegations that the computers returned to the U.S. Embassy by the Specialized Operations Unit contained national security information of the Ecuadorian State. (Note: GRPO reporting indicates that these statements are inaccurate. End Note.)

¶ 18. (C) Correa's statements ruling out the use of polygraphs contradicts the message we took away from the Ambassador's meetings during the past two weeks with Coordinating Minister of Internal and External Security Miguel Carvajal and FM Falconi (Refs B-C). Neither of them had expressed objections

when the Ambassador made clear that vetting, including polygraphs, remained a condition for much of our counternarcotics cooperation. To test the GOE's stated commitment to return to meaningful cooperation in counternarcotics, the Embassy will continue to pursue promised discussions with the GOE on a written agreement that includes Drug Enforcement Administration vetting.

ECUADORIAN PUBLIC'S CONCLUSION: USG GUILTY

¶9. (C) The public relations dynamic in Ecuador is not working in our favor. Correa's continued condemnation of U.S. Embassy actions, combined with our lack of response since the Department statement on February 19, have led many Ecuadorians to conclude that U.S. Embassy officials were caught doing wrong and deserved expulsion. Meanwhile, the Ambassador has continued doing business as usual, including inaugurations in Carchi province on March 6 of USAID projects and barracks for military who do counternarcotics work. Unfortunately, heavy media coverage of these routine events appeared to feed into the inaccurate public perception that the U.S. continues assisting the GOE because the expulsions of U.S. Embassy officials were warranted. In the absence of U.S. clarification (via retaliation, explicit statements, or otherwise), Ecuadorians do not understand that U.S. Embassy officials were acting appropriately, consistent with verbal agreements and law enforcement best practices, and that GOE actions were out of line and harmed bilateral relations.

COMMENT

¶10. (C) The GOE is trying to have it both ways: look like it seeks good relations with the U.S. (which most Ecuadorians favor), while at the same time insisting that the new relationship would not resemble the old and that the Obama administration would not condone the actions of the two expelled Embassy officials.

HODGES

=====CABLE ENDS=====